



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### DISTRIBUTION OF WATERFOWL FOUND WINTERING IN UNITED STATES

The green-headed mallard--the prize shooting of thousands of sportsmen--comprised slightly less than a third of the populations of wild ducks and geese found wintering within the confines of the United States during the time the January 1948 waterfowl inventory was made, Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, stated today.

A breakdown of the 1948 inventory has revealed that the pintail was the second "most numerous" species, accounting for about a fifth of the total U. S. wintering population.

Other species sought by duck hunters which made up smaller percentages of the total population were the baldpate or widgeon, scaup, green-winged teal, black duck, redhead, shoveller, and canvas-back, in that order.

Least numerous species were the bufflehead, blue-winged teal, ring-necked duck, wood duck, and the golden-eye.

Practically all of the mallards wintering in the United States were found in the Mississippi flyway states and west. The mallard is the dominant bird in that flyway.

Pintails, on the other hand, were most numerous in the states west of the Rocky Mountains. These states held the bulk of the pintails during the wintering season although the Central states had a fair proportion.

The baldpate also was more abundant in the states west of the Rocky Mountains than in other areas. This was likewise true of the snow goose, the shoveller, the ruddy duck, the white-fronted goose, and the white-cheeked goose.

Redheads tended to congregate in greatest numbers in the Central states. Most of the blue geese, gadwalls, wood ducks and ring-necked ducks wintering in the United States were concentrated in the Mississippi flyway states. The canvas-back, black duck, scaup and coot were more numerous in the Atlantic area. The latter bird was also abundant in the western states.

While over-all populations of the continent remain approximately as they were a year ago, appreciable decreases were evident in Latin America.

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